

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:CHG

APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB

AF - WESCHAUFLE, JR.

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

S - MR PASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184165

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADORS PORTER AND HELMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NKOMO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN

1. RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO IS PLANNING TO VISIT RIYADH ON AUGUST 5 AND TEHRAN ON AUGUST 15 WITH A VIEW TO MEETING WITH KING KHALID AND THE SHAH. NKOMO IS LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PERMIT HIS AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO OFFSET ITS COSTS, INCLUDING FINANCING A PARTY CONGRESS, AND TO INCREASE ITS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY IN RHODESIA. NKOMO'S POSITION HAS SUFFERED IN THE PAST MONTHS WITH THE BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS WITH THE SMITH GOVERNMENT AND HE IS SEEKING NEW RESOURCES TO HELP IN RESTORING HIS POLITICAL BASE.

2. WE HAVE AGREED TO HELP FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE KING AND THE SHAH. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT NKOMO -- OR HIS ASSISTANT NDLOVU -- CONTACT YOU ON  
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ARRIVAL AND ASKED NKOMO TO LET US KNOW THE OUTCOME OF

HIS DISCUSSIONS.

3. WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL TO NKOMO WHO CONTINUES TO BE COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND WHOSE LEADERSHIP OFFERS THE BEST CHANCE TO

SECURE THE MINORITY RIGHTS AND THE MODERATE REGIME WHICH CAN FACILITATE THE NEGOTIATED TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. NKOMO'S CONTINUED RELEVANCY IS IMPORTANT IN CONTAINING SOVIET AND RADICAL AFRICAN INFLUENCE IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

4. YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE OUR VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NKOMO AND THE DESIRABILITY OF MEETING WITH HIM KNOWN TO THE KING AND THE SHAH.

ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE184165  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FGWISNER:CHG  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P840093-1530  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760724/aaaaaurc.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NKOMO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, OVIP, US, RH, IR, SA, ANC, (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (NDLOVU, EDWARD SILONDA), (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA), (KHALID, KING)  
**To:** JIDDA TEHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006